

Message Text

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64

ACTION EA-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-10 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-14

USIA-04 NIC-01 ACDA-10 MC-02 DRC-01 /068 W

----- 033077

R 080255Z OCT 74

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2512

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MPOL CH

SUBJECT: PRC MILITARY PROCUREMENT

1. CLAIRE HOLLINGWORTH OF LONDON "DAILY TELEGRAPH" TELLS US THAT AT JULY 31 ARMY DAY RECEPTION SHE WAS SEATED AT TABLE IN GREAT HALL ALONGSIDE PLA OFFICER "WHO WOULD BE A GENERAL IF PLA STILL HAD RANKS." LATTER SURPRISINGLY TOUCHED BRIEFLY UPON SUBJECT OF MILITARY PROCUREMENT DURING ENSUING CONVERSATION, NOTING THAT PLA WAS ACQUIRING LARGE NUMBERS OF ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS, BUT WAS FACING A SHORTAGE OF ANTI-TANK WEAPONS.

2. THIS WAS FIRST TIME IN MRS. HOLLINGWORTH'S EXPERIENCE THAT SUBJECT OF PLA PROCUREMENT HAS EVER BEEN DISCUSSED WITH HER BY A CHINESE OFFICER. SHE HAS NOT REPORTED THIS STORY TO HER NEWSPAPER FOR FEAR THAT ITS SENSITIVE NATURE MIGHT GET HER AND HER SOURCE INTO DIFFICULTIES IF SHE DID SO.

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HOLDRIDGE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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